THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of small coins and currency notes

2341. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small coins and currency notes are not available in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this shortage; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the availability of coins and currency notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a)There are reports about shortage of coins in some parts of the country. However, there is no shortage of Bank notes in the denomination of Rs. 10/- and above. Printing of Bank notes of Rs. 5 denomination has also been resumed during the current year for meeting the demand of smaller denomination notes.

(b) There has been a significant increase in the demand for coins during recent years. As against a demand of 6500 million pieces (MPCs) of coins during 2001-2002, the four Indian Government Mints at Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Noida have an aggregate capacity to produce 3700 MPCs of coins per year, thereby resulting in shortages.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to address the problem of shortage of coins, which *inter-alia* include the following :—

(i) The Indian Government Mints at Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad have been modernised.

(ii) The bank note of Rs. 5 denomination has been reintroduced during the current year to meet the shortage of Rs. 5 coins.

(iii) The coins in denomination of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 are also being imported to meet the gap between demand and supply of coins in the country.

(iv) The Regional Offices of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are regularly supplying the coins to their Currency Chests to ensure equitable distribution of coins in the country.

Revenues generation in various departments

2342. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made during the last three years about the anticipated results and results actually achieved and the actual expenditure incurred under Major Head relating to generation of revenues in various Departments of Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, what are the results thereof and whether Government is satisfied with the results; and

(c) whether similar exercises would also be held in Ministries like Communications, Commerce, Industry, etc. in case the results has been satisfactory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Assets managed by Mutual Funds

2343. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that assets managed by mutual funds witnessed a substantial depreciation during the second quarter of current financial year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Unit Trust of India has seen maximum fall of assets value during this quarter;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to save the interests of investors?